

REMARKS

Claims 43 & 48 were objected to for informalities, and claims 1-4, 8-20, 37-39, 42-43, 45-48 & 50 rejected under 35 USC 112 for enablement and support issues. Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), claims 1-4, 8, 10-11, 13-20, 37-38, 48 & 50 were rejected as unpatentable over Arcone et al. (1999 Biochimica et Biophysica Acta 1451: 173-186) in view of current practice in protein design, as evidenced by Wells (1990 Biochemistry 29(37): 8509-8517), claims 39, 42-43 & 45-46 rejected over Arcone et al. in view of Veronese (2001 Biomaterials 22: 405-417), and claim 47 rejected over Arcone et al. in view of Veronese and Roberts et al. (2002 Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews 54: 459-476).

In response, Applicants have canceled claims 8-10 & 19, amended claims 1-2, 12, 20 & 48 and submitted the following remarks.

First, for the objection to claim 43 that the molecular weight lacks a unit, Applicants submit that the term needs no unit as being *the ratio of the mass of that molecule to 1/12 of the mass of ¹²C* and thus being a dimensionless number, according to the Wikipedia.

For the 112 rejections, Applicants have restricted mainly the substitutions of amino acids for each independent claim 1/2/20 according to Experimental Examples 12, 16-17 etc. in the specification, so as to meet the requirements of enablement and support.

As for the 103(a) rejections, the above Experimental Examples also show particular effects of the substitutions (S205A, S205T or S205G) and (H43A or H43S) in amended claim 1/2/20, wherein H43A or H43S is not taught in the prior art (Arcone et al.: H43N) and was originally recited in claim 9 not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) by Examiner.

For at least the above reasons, amended claims 1-2 & 20 and claims 3-4, 11-18, 37-39, 42-43, 45-48 & 50 dependent therefrom all patently define over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that pending claims 1-4, 11-18, 20, 37-39, 42-43, 45-48 & 50 of the present application are in proper condition for allowance. Rejoining of withdrawn claims 5, 21-36, 40-41, 44, 49 & 51-57 all dependent from claim 1 is also requested if Examiner would allow claims 1-4, 11-18, 20, 37-39, 42-43, 45-48 & 50. If Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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